

1. The basics...who are you? Name, where you live, any affiliation

My name is Jacqueline Peck. I am an ardent voter who has not missed an election since I turned 21. I am a professor retired from the University of Akron and have published and edited research in international top-tier journals. Thank you for this opportunity to speak to you today.

2. Why are you here? (What made you decide to testify? What put a fire in your belly? What difference do you want to make?)

I have great concern with district maps that are drawn without regard for the Ohio Constitution, sound use of current census data, and attention to community factors.

3. What is the most important thing you want the Commissioners to hear and remember? (After you speak, this is the one point you want people to remember about your testimony.)

As a researcher and editor of published research, I value and uphold the integrity of sound use of data analysis. Indeed, research articles are not published in credible journals until a body of peers have read and critically examined the research and analysis procedures used.

I come to you now because I have great concern that the proposed map lacks attention to credible data analysis to meet the requirements set forth by our Ohio Constitution. Specifically, the proposed map scores low on proportionality. Those genuinely interested in drawing a fair map need to understand this concept and it applies to the census data. If those drawing maps do not understand this, they need to consult those who do. Respected experts in the field of statistics (meaning those who are recognized by accredited universities) should be called upon to affirm proportionality not only in regard to partisanship but also to race.

The analysis of the proposed map which can be found at fairdistrictsohio.org (click on Fair Districts Map Analysis) demonstrates the low proportionality by contrasting the districts' partisan proportionality with the proposed map's partisan outcome. Clearly, the proposed map retains gerrymandering by packing one party's votes into a few districts and then cracking (spreading) the remaining voters of that same party across many districts. It is through sound analysis of the proportions that this becomes evident and why sound use of data analysis by those with appropriate research credentials is so necessary.

4. What evidence do you have to illustrate your point? (Researched and fact-based, please.)

See Fair Districts Map Analysis (fairdistrictsohio.org)

Members promoting the officially proposed map have stated, on record, that they failed to examine the racial composition of their map. This egregious omission is not only blatantly in conflict with our Ohio Constitution, it also violates the federal Voting Rights Act, disrespects minority communities, and turns a deaf ear to Ohio voters.

5. Do you have a story that illustrates your point? Can you tell it in 1 minute?

6. So what? Why does this matter? What will happen if nothing changes? How will this benefit the community?

Without fair districts, competitive primaries without competitive general elections will promote the extreme partisanship that is crippling our democracy. Further, independent voters and others who do not vote a straight party ticket will be disadvantaged.

7. Finally, what do you want the Commissioners to do, or consider, or change? What is your ask? (Say it clearly as your conclusion, then say thank-you.)

I ask you to serve Ohio voters from all political persuasions who, as you know, overwhelmingly supported redistricting reforms in 2015 and again in 2018. Both reform efforts won in all 88 Ohio counties and by more than 70% of the vote.

I further ask that you fulfill the promise of the redistricting reforms placed into the Ohio Constitution. The process should be transparent, open, based on sound use of census data and community factors, and be bipartisan. Only in this way will our map serve the voters - not the political interests of parties or candidates.

Thank you for listening.

